CHARTER - CONSTITUTION

AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

BISHOP WHITE

PARISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CHARTER

WHEREAS, The following named persons, citizens of this Commonwealth, viz., Anne C. Coleman, Susan B. Collet, Mary H. Montgomery, Elizabeth B. Smith, Mary F. Clarkson, Elizabeth Fisher, Susan Helmuth, Mary Kirkham, Mary R. Smith, Sarah E. Farnum, Anna Gillasspy, Julia Dunlap, Annie H. Foggo, Caroline E. Hazlehurst, Julia L. Clark, and Maria Conarroe have, together with other citizens, associated themselves together for the purpose of supply the missionary stations and feeble parishes of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, with the standard theological works of the Church, and also of extending aid as far as its means will allow, to indigent parishes in other Dioceses, and such foreign missionary stations as may be approved of by the Board of Managers, and are now desirous to be incorporated by the name, style, and title of "The Bishop White Parish Library Association," agreeably to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act to confer on certain Associations of the citizens of this Commonwealth, the powers and immunities of corporations or bodies politic in law," and the supplements thereto. They therefore declare the following to be the objects, articles, conditions, and constitution of their said association, agreebly to which they desire to be incorporated, viz.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1. The name, style, and title of the said Association shall be "The Bishop White Parish Library Association."

ARTICLE 2. The object of this Association shall be, first, to supply the missionary stations and feeble parishes of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Pennsylvania with the standard theological works of the Church; and, secondly, to extend its aid, so far as its means will permit, to indigent parishes in other Dioceses, and such foreign missionary stations as shall be approved of by the Board of Managers, giving the preference always to isolated regions, or wherever the Church may be feeblest.

ARTICLE 3. The list of the works to be thus distributed, shall be either selected by the Bishop of Pennsylvania, or subjected to his supervision or approbation, and they shall be presented to the libraries of the respective parishes only upon a written recommendation of the Bishop of the Diocese from which the application is made.

ARTICLE 4. The works thus distributed shall be for the use of the clergyman of the parish for the time being, and shall be under the care of the wardens and vestrymen of said parish.

In the event of there being a vacancy in the parish, and no vestrymen or other fit persons to take charge of the library, it shall be at the disposal of the Bishop of the Diocese to which the parish belongs.

ARTICLE 5. The affairs of the Association shall be controlled by sixteen managers, who shall be elected annually from among the members thereof, at such time and in such manner as the By-Laws shall prescribe, and who shall elect among themselves a President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Librarian, who, together with the remaining managers, shall constitute a Board for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE 6. The said, "The Bishop White Parish Library Association," shall have perpetual succession, and shall be able and capable in law to take, hold, mortgage, and sell, and convey real estate in fee simple, on ground-rent or otherwise; and to take and hold personal estate received by gift, grant, or bequest, and sell and dispose of the same; to have a common seal, and the same to break, alter, and renew at pleasure; to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded in any Court of Record, or any other place whatever; and generally to do all such matters and things as may be lawful and necessary for them to do for the furtherance of the object aforesaid. *Provided*, That the clear yearly value or income of the real and personal estate of said corporation shall not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars.

ARTICLE 7. The said, "The Bishop White Parish Library Association," shall have power to prescribe the qualifications of members, and from time to time to make such By-Laws, rules and regulations as to the election and duties of the said officers thereof, and as to the election and appointment of other suitable officers and agents, and their several duties, to increase or diminish the number of managers, and to make such laws, rules, and regulations, from time to time, for the government of the said Association, and of the officers and members, and of the affairs thereof, as they may deem necessary and

convenient for the carrying into effect the object of said Association, and the due management and regulation of the affairs thereof, and from time to time to alter or repeal the same, provided the same be not contrary to law, or to anything contained in these Articles.

ARTICLE 8. If the annual election shall not be made on the stated day, the said Corporation shall not thereby be dissolved, but the managers and officers shall continue in office until a new election, which shall be made at such time and place and after such notice as the Board of Managers shall prescribe.

ARTICLE 9. All amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed in writing at a stated meeting of the Corporation. They shall then lie over for final action until the next stated meeting, and shall then only be adopted by the votes of two-thirds of the members present.

ARTICLE 10. The present officers of the Association shall continue in office until their successors shall be duly elected at the annual election, to be fixed and provided for by the By-Laws to be adopted by said Corporation.

ANNE C. COLEMAN
SUSAN B. COLLET
MARY H. MONTGOMERY
ELIZABETH B. SMITH
MARY R. SMITH
ELIZABETH FISHER
SUSAN HELMUTH
MARY KIRKHAM
MARY F. CLARKSON
SARAH E. FARNUM
ANNA GILLASSPY
JULIA DUNLAP
ANNIE H. FOGGO
CAROLINE E. HAZLEHURST
JULIA L. CLARK
MARIA CONARROE

In the Court of Common Pleas in and for the City and County of Philadelphia.

In the matter of the Incorporation of "THE BISHOP WHITE PARISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION."

And now, to wit, this twenty-sixth day of May, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, the Articles of Incorporation of "The Bishop White Parish Library Association" having been heretofore, to wit, on the first day of February, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, filed in the office of the Prothonotary of said Court, and due notice having been inserted in a newspaper printed in said county, in due conformity to law; therefore on motion of George M. Conarroe, Esquire, it is declared and decreed by said Court that the persons so associated under said Articles shall, according to the Articles and conditions in said instrument set forth and contained, become and be a corporation or body politic in law. And it is further ordered and directed, that said Charter of Incorporation shall be recorded in the office for recording of deeds, etc., in and for the said City and County of Philadelphia; and on said instrument being so recorded, the persons so associated, or meaning to associate, shall, according to the objects, articles, and conditions in said instrument set forth and contained, become and be a corporation or body politic in law and in fact, to have continuance by the name, style, and title in said instrument provided and declared.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, this twenty-seventh day of May, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.

T. O. WEBB, [SEAL]
Pro Prothonotary.

Recorded in the office for Recording Deeds, etc., for the City and County of Philadelphia, in Miscellaneous-Book L. R. B., page 71, etc.

Witness my hand and seal of office, this twenty-seventh day of May, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.

L. R. BROOMALL, [SEAL]
Recorder of Deeds,
Per M. MYERS.

BY-LAWS

I

The annual election for not less than sixteen Managers as provided for by the Charter, shall be held on the first Thursday in December, at 11 o'clock. The officers provided for by Article V of the Charter shall be elected by the Managers at their first meeting after their election. The offices of Recording and Corresponding Secretary shall be filled by the same person.

II

Every subscriber who has paid two dollars per year for three successive years, shall be entitled to vote at the annual election for Managers.

III

The stated meetings of the Board of Managers shall be held on the third Thursdays of January, March, May, and October, at 11 o'clock, and the annual meeting, as directed by the Constitution, on the first Thursday in December at 11 o'clock, or at such hour and place as may be appointed from time to time. Five Managers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

IV

There shall be a committee called "The Library Committee," which shall be composed of the Librarian, Secretary, and one other member of the Board, to be elected annually. The duties of this Committee shall be, first, to provide the standard theological works of the Church from the list previously furnished by the Bishop of this Diocese. They shall endeavor to purchase them on the most reasonable terms, and shall superintend their being labelled and tansmitted to their destination.

All applications shall first come before the Library Committee for approval. In any case of doubt the same shall be referred to the Board. After an application is approved, it shall go to the Bishop of the Diocese where the applicant resides, for his endorsement. In replying to applications, the committee shall enclose a copy of the catalogue from which the applicant shall select not more than twenty-five volumes, no library to exceed the cost of sixty dollars. Occasional special additions may be made to the libraries already bestowed, when directed by the Board. The Secretary shall reply to the letters of application; and all letters received shall be read to the Board of Managers at each meeting, and a written report made of the proceedings of the committee since the previous meeting, the Librarian always keeping a correct list of the books sent and the names of the parish or missionary station receiving them. Preference shall always be given to isolated regions or wherever the Church may be feeblest.

Books shall be furnished to those applicants *only* who have a written endorsement for the purpose from the Bishop of the Diocese or missionary jurisdiction where they reside.

WHEREAS, at a stated meeting of the Board of Managers, held November 16, 1916, a majority of the Board being present, the following was adopted as an amendment to the By-Laws; to be added to Article IV:

Resoved, in any case where it shall be deemed advisable by the Board of Managers, they may direct, that the works given to a Mission or Parish, may become and remain the property of the Clergyman—provided, however, that the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese or Jurisdiction, in which the Mission is situated shall first be obtained.

V

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Managers, shall be *ex officio* member of all committees, and have a general supervision of all the affairs of the Association.

VI

The duties of the Treasurer shall be to keep a correct account of the moneys received and paid out, and at the annual meeting, to be held on the first Thursday in December, to present a report of the same. A committee of two shall be appointed to verify said report. No payment for books purchased shall be made unless countersigned by one or more of the Library Committee. She shall present written reports at each stated meeting. When moneys are to be invested, she shall seek the best and safest investments, which are to be approved by the Board before concluded.

VII

The Secretary shall send notices to the Managers previous to each meeting; shall keep minutes of said meetings and write the annual report, which shall be printed if approved. She shall reply to all letters received regarding the work of the Society, and be the custodian of these letters for future reference in the work of the Society.

VIII

Special meetings of the Board of Managers may be called at any time by the Secretary, at the request of the President.

IX

The Association shall have a common seal with the following inscription, viz., "Bishop White Parish Library Association."

X

Thirty dollars shall constitute a person a life member of the Association. A church, or any members of it, by paying fifty dollars can secure to any clergyman a life membership, with the privilege of selecting one missionary, who may choose twenty-five volumes for the use of himself and his successors, from the list of books furnished by the Society.

XI

These By-Laws may be altered at any stated meeting of the Managers when a majority of the Board is present; and such alterations shall be valid if confirmed at a subsequent stated meeting when a majority of the Board is present.